

DRAWING AMENDMENTS: DISCUSSION

Applicant has designated Figs. 1a-1c, Figs. 2a-2c, and Fig. 16b as prior art as required by the Examiner. Fig. 7 has been amended to replace the incorrect reference number "34" with "35", as described in the discussion of specification amendments of this action.

Replacements of drawing sheets 1, 2, 5, and 14 with are provided with these corrections.

REMARKS

Section A affirms the election of claims for prosecution in response to a restriction requirement. Section B lists the status of the claims. Sections C-E respond to the rejections and objections of the Office action of March 9, 2006, in the order in which they appeared in the action.

A. Election of Claims

The claims were subject to restriction, and in a telephone conversation on January 26, 2006, the Examiner required Applicant to elect for prosecution one of Group I (claims 1-42), Group II (claims 43-66), and Group III (claims 67-69). Applicant elected Group I, claims 1-42, without traverse, and here affirm that election.

B. Status of Claims

Claims 1-42 are objected to because of informalities. Claims 16-24 and 34-42 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-42 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rosenbluth et al., US Patent Publication No. 2002/0140920.

Claims 1-42 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Nyhus et al., US Patent Publication No. 2004/0101764.

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 16, 21, 24-25, 30-31, 33-34, 38-39, and 42 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Zimlich et al., US Patent No. 6,461,774.

Claims 1-42 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2, 8, and 12-17 of copending application no. 10/728,436.

Claims 1-42 are cancelled in this response.

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C. 35 Claim Objections and 35 USC 112 Rejections

Claims 1-42 were objected to for informalities or defects. Claims 16-34 and 34-42 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-42 have been cancelled.

D. 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-42 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Rosenbluth et al. Claims 1-42 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Nyhus et al. Claims 1-2, 5-8, 16, 21, 24-25, 30-31, 33-34, 38-39, and 42 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Zimlich et al. Claims 1-42 have been cancelled.

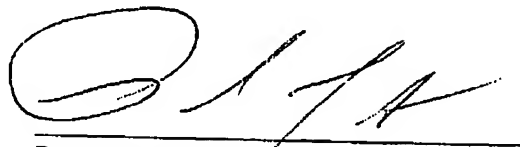
E. Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-42 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2, 8, and 12-17 of copending application no. 10/728,436. Claims 1-42 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

In view of these remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. If questions remain, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss the references. If the Examiner has any questions, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned agent at (408) 869-2921.

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Date



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